

**DATE:** July 17, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Status of the Tennessee College of Public Health (TCPH)

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** In the April 2003 Commission meeting Dr. Michael Blackwell, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Tennessee, provided a detailed briefing of a task force composed of representatives from the University of Tennessee Knoxville and Memphis Health Science Center, Tennessee State University, East Tennessee State University, the University of Memphis, and the Tennessee Department of Health, to collaborate for the purpose of designing a statewide initiative to address the public health needs of Tennesseans. This taskforce continues to meet in person and by video conferencing to plan the Tennessee College of Public Health are progressing as follows:

- The organization structure in the College (discussed in April) has been agreed upon with a few minor modifications.
- Discussions have transpired regarding faculty appointments and relationships to current institutions and departmental assignments.
- An inventory of coursework and faculty expertise related to public health has been identified as areas of strength across the state.
- Models to develop a memorandum of understanding among participating institutions will be considered to identify how resources will be allocated and shared.
- The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, University of Tennessee Knoxville, and East Tennessee State University are working collaboratively with a Consortium Grant funded by the Tennessee Department of Health. This grant will set up the processes for admissions, graduation and transfer of credits, evaluation of faculty credentials, etc., to establish the groundwork for the TCPH.
- Dr. Palmer Beasley, Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Texas, Houston will meet with the task force to discuss the accreditation process and the realities of operating a School of Public Health. Dr. Beasley has served as President of the Association of Schools of Public Health.
- The task force is also discussing the merits of an identifying an experienced person to serve as interim dean to bring the plans to fruition and lead the effort to apply for accreditation.